



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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To: Chair Ravel and Commissioners Eskovitz, Garrett, Montgomery and Rotunda

From: Lynda Cassady, Chief of Technical Assistance Division

Subject: Report of Division Activities

Date: August 29, 2012

Statements of Economic Interests – Candidate and Judges

The Division scanned and posted over 100 Form 700s filed by non-incumbent candidates seeking a legislative office that is listed on the November ballot. In September the annual statements for judges will be posted. There were a significant number of additional redaction requests during the review period.

Advice Requests

As the election season begins, our technical assistance line will respond to many requests for advice on local campaign reporting. Over 800 calls are received weekly. For several consultants this is their first election season. All effort is made to answer questions within 24 hours. However, accuracy is the top priority and in some cases a response, particularly if in connection with a new regulation will take longer.

Election Reports

Political Reform Consultants Barbara Smith and Sandy Johnson continue to update the election reports that disclose the top donors to committees formed to support and oppose state ballot measures that have qualified for the ballot. Tara Stock and Trish Mayer will begin posting reports of independent expenditures made in connection with legislative races.

Campaign Forms and Manuals

New instruction pages for several of the campaign forms were posted. The Commission approved the changes at its August 2012 meeting.

Statement of Economic Interests – Form 700 Unit

The Form 700 unit continues to follow up on non-filers with a total of 772 letters sent in an attempt to obtain missing statements following the April deadline. Since June, the unit has received over 440 candidate Form 700s filed by city council and mayoral candidates. Manager Trish Mayer is updating the Form 700 and Reference Pamphlet for the 2012/2013 filing season. It is expected the form and pamphlet will be before Commission for approval at the October meeting.

Seminars and Outreaches

Consultants traveled the state to meet our mandate to provide educational services to candidates and committees that are participating in local elections. The seminar program exceeded our expectations with almost every seminar having a higher attendance than the RSVPs. Several of the seminars were standing room only.

We were gratified to receive a recent comment from Donna Johnston, Sutter County Clerk-Recorder: "The speakers were very knowledgeable and interacted with the audience well. One campaign mentioned that they did not think they would learn very much in such a short time frame, but they were very impressed with both the amount of information and the way that it was presented. Several participants from both workshops commented on how they felt more confident in handling the required paperwork, and thanked me for bringing this workshop to them."

During this busy election season, the Division's highest priority is to provide the maximum level of training to candidates and treasurers to ensure there is no excuse for not complying with accurate reporting and recordkeeping.

Manager Trish Mayer traveled to Adelanto, Santa Monica and San Diego to make candidate/treasurer presentations. Political Reform Consultant Barbara Smith made a candidate/treasurer presentation in Sutter County. Political Reform Consultant Cynthia Jones traveled to Murrieta to make a candidate/treasurer presentation. Political Reform Consultant Alex Castillo made presentations in Sutter County and in Sacramento to officials who administer campaign filings. Manager Trish Mayer made a presentation in Pomona to campaign filing officers. Political Reform Consultant Cynthia Fisher met with staff at the Department of Rehabilitation and in Solano County to provide training to officials who administer Form 700 filings. Political Reform Consultant Ivy Branaman met with staff from the Commission on Disability Access on their Form 700 administrative duties, and the Stockton East Water District to provide training on conflict-of-interest code amendments. Additional training is scheduled in September for candidates and treasurers and for agency officials who administer conflict-of-interest code amendments and Form 700s.!

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Conflict-of-Interest Codes

Approved amendments and adoptions to conflict-of-interest codes include:

Multi-County Agencies:

Desert Community College District, Association of California Water Agencies JPA, Yosemite Community College, Antelope Valley State Water Contractor's Association, Friant Water Authority, San Geronio Pass Water Authority, Sacramento County Board of Education, Sonoma County Junior College District and Southern CA Association of Governments